



Vernal_Comments, BLM_UT <blm_ut_vernal_comments@blm.gov>

December 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

1 message

Donna Heim <nPCA@npca.org>

Thu, Jul 13, 2017 at 9:29 PM

Reply-To: Donna Heim <dmheim123@gmail.com>

To: Ester McCollough <UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov>

Jul 13, 2017

Ms. Ester McCollough
Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East
Vernal, UT 84078

Dear Ms. McCollough,

Please protect Dinosaur National Monument by deferring leases 064, 065, 067, 069, 070 and 071 from the December 2017 oil and gas lease sale (DOI-BLM-UT-GO10-2017-0028-EA) and ensuring that oil and gas leasing and development on the broader landscape does not degrade the air quality or adversely impact the monument. Drilling on these parcels of land closest to Dinosaur National Monument poses too significant of a risk to the park's visitor experience and natural and cultural resources.

Have you considered the risk of drilling near the largest caldera/volcano in the world? Just as drilling and fracking in and around Oklahoma has created so much seismic activity there in recent years, the same will hold true for increased drilling and fracking near Yellowstone. Geological studies indicate that this giant erupts around every 500,000 years, and another eruption is long overdue. Geologic disruptions in neighboring states may enough stresses to pass that tipping point. When that eruption occurs, it will bury much of the US under 1 - 30' feet of volcanic ash, as any Yellowstone park ranger can tell you.

For now however we know that industrial development along the park's west entrance in clear view of the monument's main attraction, the Quarry Visitor Center and Exhibit Hall, will drive away tourists. It will mar the experience that draws thousands of visitors to the park each year. Oil and gas drilling on thousands of acres of historically rural land so close to the park and the Green River could impact the area's water quality, wildlife, air quality and cultural resources. Development of the proposed parcels would mar the monument's dark night skies, natural quiet, air quality and scenic vistas.

Deferral is a common-sense approach that offers the best protection for Dinosaur National Monument, the connected landscape and northeastern Utah's longstanding rural heritage.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Ms. Donna Heim
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